

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

45 FREMONT STREET, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
VOICE AND TDD (415) 904-5200

**W 7****RECORD PACKET COPY****DATE: July 17, 2003****TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties**

FROM: Peter M. Douglas, Executive Director
Elizabeth A. Fuchs, Manager, Statewide Planning and Federal Consistency Division
Mark Delaplaine, Federal Consistency Supervisor

RE: Negative Determinations Issued by the Executive Director
[Executive Director decision letters are attached]

PROJECT #:	ND-058-03
APPLICANT:	U.S. Geological Survey
LOCATION:	Point Arguello to the Mexican Border
PROJECT:	Evaluation of Seismic Hazard
ACTION:	Concur
ACTION DATE:	7/8/2003

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July 8, 2003

Dave Hogg
USGS Marine Facility
U.S. Geological Survey
Coastal and Marine Geology Program
599 Seaport Blvd.
Redwood City, CA 94063

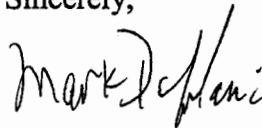
Re: **ND-058-03** Negative Determination, USGS, 2003 Southern California seismic survey

Dear Mr. Hogg:

The Coastal Commission staff has received the above-referenced negative determination for a five day survey in southern California waters (between Point Arguello and the U.S./Mexican Border) in July 2003. The survey will be conducted by taking sediment samples and using a sub-bottom profiler (an Edgetech 512I chirp system, which involves a range of 0.5-12 kiloHertz (kHz), with a maximum sound pressure level of 198 decibels (dB)). The Commission has concurred with past consistency and negative determinations for USGS surveys involving airguns (ND-51-99, CD-16-00, CD-32-99). While the proposed survey will involve much quieter equipment than the previous airgun surveys, USGS will still continue to monitor for marine mammal impacts, and will avoid exposing marine mammals to sounds in excess of 160 dB (i.e., USGS will maintain an 80 meter marine mammal preclusion area [note: a 180 dB preclusion area would only need to be 8 meters from the source]). In addition, the surveys will be short, limited to 1-2 hours per day of active transmission periods over 5 days, and limited to daylight hours.

The Commission staff agrees that, with the measures USGS has incorporated, the proposed survey will not adverse affect marine mammals or other coastal zone resources. We therefore concur with your negative determination made pursuant to Section 15 CFR 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Delaplaine of the Coastal Commission staff at (415) 904-5289.

Sincerely,

(For) 
PETER M. DOUGLAS
Executive Director

cc: Ventura Area Office
NMFS (Long Beach Office)
State Lands Commission